

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 9, Folder 8

Copies of  
correspondence to  
Captain H.F. Lloyd...  
1960-1961...

0872



THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

20 December 1960

Dear Hank:

My apologies for the delay in answering your letter of 9 December. Somehow it became mixed up with the wrong stack.

I have looked at Commander Howard Cole's record and in a way it is hard to understand why he was passed over. However, there are two fitness reports, one when he was Commanding Officer of VS 21 and one when he was Air Officer in the Point Cruise, which while not unsatisfactory, are low in comparison with his other reports and with the average reports of those selected. As I am sure you understand, the competition was very tough, and the percent of selection in the zone was 53, so that with all the good people available, any below average fitness reports undoubtedly would carry considerable weight. We are estimating that the percent next year will be about 70 selected in the zone and in my opinion Commander Cole should have a good chance of being picked up providing the fitness reports he receives while in your command remain as high as those you have previously given him. I am sure you realize, Hank, that nothing can be guaranteed in this business, so do not get his hopes up too high.

We are still practically snowed in up here although the main roads are now clear, but the weatherman says maybe more snow tonight. It makes your weather at Key West sound most desirable.

A very Merry Christmas to all the Lloyd's from all the Loomis'.

Sincerely,

ALMON E. LOOMIS  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy

Captain H. F. Lloyd, USN  
Commanding Officer  
Air Development Squadron ONE  
U. S. Naval Air Station  
Key West, Florida

0873

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Op-09/1ds  
Ser: 1P09  
10 Jan 1961

From: Vice Chief of Naval Operations  
To: Chief of Naval Personnel

Subj: Commander Howard (n) COLE, USN, 123440/1310; performance  
of duty during the period April through October 1954

1. Commander Cole's performance of duty came under my observation in 1954 when he was Squadron Commander of Anti-submarine Squadron 21 (VS 21). Commander Cole and his squadron operated from the USS POINT CRUZ, my Division flagship.
2. Commander Cole's squadron was equipped with the Grumman "Guardian", the AF-1 aircraft, an awkward airplane designed as an attack plane, but which had been remodeled sufficiently to perform in the anti-submarine role. It was not a good carrier airplane. To familiarize myself with its performance I checked out in it and flew it at the Naval Air Station, Barber's Point, Hawaii. The aircraft was greatly over-designed. It had hydraulic boost on all three controls, - elevator, rudder and ailerons, with aileron action augmented by auxiliary spoiler devices called flaperettes. All in all, it was a much too complex package and too difficult to fly and maintain for round-the-clock operations from an escort carrier's deck. Despite the handicap of the Squadron's flying equipment, Commander Cole kept the morale of his squadron in good shape and accepted every operating challenge which was offered.
3. I had many personal contacts with Commander Cole to discuss the work of his squadron. From these contacts and my observation of the accomplishments of his squadron under trying circumstances, I retained a high regard for his professional qualities as a naval officer and for his skill as a Naval Aviator. Based upon such personal observation over a period of approximately six months in the latter half of 1954, I would not hesitate to recommend Commander Cole for promotion, and further I would state my opinion that he is a naval officer of high professional competence.
4. I would be pleased to have the foregoing statement filed in Commander Cole's official performance record in the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

Copy to:  
CDR Cole

JAMES S. RUSSELL  
Admiral, U.S. Navy

0874

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25 D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

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JAMES S. RUSSELL  
Admiral, U.S. Navy

Copy to:  
CDR Cole

0075

UNITED STATES NAVAL  
OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION FORCE  
Norfolk 11, Va.

In reply refer to:  
FF5-7/10:jhm  
1650  
Ser: 81

JAN 19 1961

From: Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force  
To: Commander Howard CCLE, U. S. Navy  
Via: Commanding Officer, Air Development Squadron ONE

Subj: Letter of Commendation

1. In your present tour of duty as Project Coordinator and Evaluation Officer of Air Development Squadron ONE your overall superior performance of duty is noted with great pleasure.
2. Your thorough knowledge of Air ASW capabilities, limitations and potential has served this Force well, and your technical and professional competence is recognized within the Navy Department and by industry. You have aided this Headquarters on many occasions in the design of ASW tests and evaluations. Your thorough analysis of problem areas, your enthusiastic and personal leadership have contributed much to the expeditious completion of air ASW projects and to the excellence of reports emanating from AIRDEV-  
RON ONE.
3. The expeditious and professional manner which you displayed while executing Project OP/V 272 S2F, an "AA" priority project, on board the USS TARAWA was in keeping with the highest standards of the naval service in that under your personal direction the shipboard phase of the project was completed by VX-1 aircraft and crews in the shortest possible time and all evaluation objectives were satisfied.
4. Again, your leadership and guidance in organizing and directing the work of AIRDEVRON briefing teams has resulted in technical presentations of an outstanding caliber. These presentations before Fleet Commands, visiting Nationals, Ad-Hoc Committees and Fleet Air ASW squadrons were well received and of great value to the recipients. The presentations were noted for their thoroughness of preparation, professional perspective, orderly manner and clearness of purpose.

0876

FF5-7/10:jhm

1650

Ser:

5. Your outstanding professional competence, your dedication to the Navy and your personal knowledge of the many facets of Air Antisubmarine Warfare are noted with pleasure. "WELL DONE":

CHARLES K. BERGIN

0877

REPORT OF BOARD OF MEDICAL SURVEY  
NAVJED-M (REV. 5-45) 12-57-17-1 12-57-17-1

MAR 29 1961

PLACE U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, KEY WEST, FLORIDA DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of hospital, ship, or station where survey is held)

FROM: Board of Medical Survey

TO: ~~Commanding Officer~~ Bureau of Medicine & Surgery

Via: ~~Commanding Officer~~

For transmission to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

NAME COLE, Howard NO. 12340/1310 RANK OR RATE AND CLASSIFICATION LTJG, USN  
(In full, surname first) (File or service number)

BIRTHPLACE New Jersey BIRTH DATE 3-5-19

ENLISTED OR APPOINTED: Date \_\_\_\_\_ REPORTED FOR ACTIVE DUTY, USNR: Date \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT STATUS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Rank or Rate)

APPOINTMENT OR PROMOTION TO PRESENT RANK: Date \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL SERVICE: Navy \_\_\_\_\_ Marine Corps \_\_\_\_\_ Army \_\_\_\_\_

ADMITTED FROM U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, KEY WEST, FLORIDA DATE 2-1-61

DIAGNOSIS PNEUMONIA, 5th RIGHT RIB (1959) KEY LTR. \_\_\_\_\_ SPEC. LTR. \_\_\_\_\_  
(From Navy nomenclature, under which carried on sick list)

ORIGIN: Is not the result of his own misconduct and was incurred in line of duty  
(Is or is not) (Was or was not)

EXISTED PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT OR ENLISTMENT? No IF "YES," WAS CONDITION AGGRAVATED BY SERVICE? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Yes or No) (Yes or No)

PATIENT INFORMED OF FINDINGS? Yes  
(Yes or No)

SUMMARY OF CASE HISTORY

This 42 year old white male was admitted to this hospital in transfer from the Naval Hospital in Key West Florida with the following history. Approximately one year prior to admission the patient noted right sided chest pain following athletic endeavors. At various times during the past year the patient has noted the recurrence of this pain in the right axillary area, again following athletic endeavors. Patient has been otherwise asymptomatic and in his usual state of good health. Three weeks prior to admission to this hospital the patient noted a freely movable mass at the nipple level approximately one inch lateral to the nipple of the right chest wall. This mass was biopsied at the Naval Hospital in Key West Florida under local anesthetic and history accompanying the patient alleges the mass to have been an undifferentiated malignant neoplasm. Accompanying chest x-rays revealed a lytic lesion of the 5th rib on the right with a shadow on the left behind the heart border.

Past history reveals that the patient had mumps at age 30 with no adverse residual effects. Review of systems revealed some postprandial distress history. Otherwise, past history and review of systems are non-contributory with regard to the present illness.

Physical examination revealed a well developed, well nourished male in no acute distress. Vital signs were within normal limits. Gross physical examination revealed a three inch surgical wound at the nipple level on the right anterior chest wall, laterally placed. The area was asymptomatic and there was a diffuse two inch swelling beneath the scar. One small axillary node in the right was noted. Remaining gross physical examination was within normal limits. Paraneoplastic examination under psychologic examination was reported as negative.

V proctogon and prostatic examination was negative. Proctoscopy was negative. Pulmonary

(OVER)

0878

## SUMMARY OF CASE HISTORY (Continued)

Examinations were within normal limits and electrocardiogram was reported as negative. Roentgen failed to reveal the lesion cited in the 5th right anterior rib to be within the pleural cavity. There was no other evidence of disease in the lung. Bronchoscopy was negative. GI series was negative. Thorough review of the skin failed to reveal any melanotic lesions. As noted, chest x-ray revealed a three cm. area of destruction in the fifth right anterior rib in the anterior axillary line with an associated soft tissue mass of this dimension. The remainder of the chest was negative.

Patient was taken to the operating room on 9 February 1961. Under general anesthesia the tumor mass of the fifth rib was removed en masse along with portions of the 4th and 6th ribs and all of the overlying structures and the underlying pleura. A flap of serratus anterior

(CONTINUED)

PRESENT CONDITION: Fit for duty PROBABLE FUTURE DURATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDATION: That he be returned to full duty, fit for same.

J. J. TIMMER  
CAPT. MC USN

U. S. NAVY  
(Senior Member of Board)

M. J. THEDGER  
CAPT. MC USN

U. S. NAVY  
(Member)

J. T. MULLER  
LT. MC USN

U. S. NAVY  
(Member)

ENDORSEMENT

FROM: Commanding Officer

DATE: 3-29-61

TO: Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

1. Approval recommended.

2. This officer will be transferred to Air Development

Squadron, (CNS), US NAVAL AIR STATION, Key West, Fla. for duty

pending action on Report of Bd. of Medical Survey.

P. J. MC NAMARA

J. J. (S) CAPT. MC USN

ENDORSEMENT

By direction.

FROM: Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

DATE: 5 April 1961

TO: Chief of Naval Personnel

1. Forwarded: Recommendation of Board Approved, inasmuch as he has no overt disability at this time and as far as can be determined is physically qualified for full duty. However, the possibility that latent disability may be present in the form of metastasis, not yet clinically apparent, must be recognized. 2. In order to detect metastasis and institute appropriate treatment at the earliest possible date, CDR COLE's assignment should be such as to facilitate periodic reexaminations in a naval hospital at not less than six month intervals. Such reexaminations will be required for an indefinite period and may be accomplished on an outpatient basis, with the results if negative recorded on a SF-513 and filed in this officer's health record.

S. C. KENNEY

Chief of Bureau

ENDORSEMENT

H. L. GREENBERG

By direction

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

APR 14 1961  
NAVY DEPARTMENT  
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
Preceding Endorsement Approved  
W. R. GREENBERG III  
THE CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

(Signature)

NOTE: BuMed and BuPers or Mar Corps endorsements shall be entered on NAVMED-H-8 in the health record.

★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1958 OF-471338

0879



MAR 29 1961

U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL, ST. ALBANS 25, N.Y.

COLE, Howard

123440/1310

CNR, USN

New Jersey

3-5-19

muscle was swung forward to close the defect. Patient withstood the procedure well. The pathology report was that of fibrosarcoma, moderately undifferentiated, 5th rib. Sections taken at the margins of the rib showed no evidence of tumor extending to the sites. The tumor microscopically was thought to be confined to that portion of the rib which was mostly involved. Review of the slides from Key West Naval Hospital revealed fibrosarcoma of the rib. Postoperatively, the patient's course has been uncomplicated. The wound now appears well healed. There is no evidence of masses in the wound area or in the right axilla. Chest x-ray reveals no evidence of disease. Bone survey failed to reveal any evidence of disease. The patient is afebrile and asymptomatic. Physical examination failed to reveal any evidence of extension of the disease.

This then is the case of COLE, Howard, CNR, USN. The diagnosis of Fibrosarcoma of the 5th rib has been established by operative specimen. It is the opinion of this Board that this man has been adequately treated by surgical intervention of his lesion. There is at this time no evidence of extension or recurrence of the disease. This man is therefore discharged to full duty, fit for same. Pulmonary function studies at this time are within the range of normal limits. It is felt that his operative procedure should in no way lessen his pulmonary function ability.

It is the recommendation of the Board that the patient be sent to full duty, <sup>fit</sup> for same.

Patient has been informed of the Board's findings and does not desire to submit a statement in rebuttal.

0000

Pers B-FJB-1es  
28 June 1961

From: Rear Admiral Frederick J. Brush, USN  
To: Chief of Naval Personnel (AFPN: Pers B)

Subject: Commander Howard (n) COLA, 123440/1310, USN; performance of

1. The purpose of this letter is to insert into the record of Commander Howard Cole pertinent information in regard to this officer which might have a bearing on his selection opportunity when his record comes before the Commander to Captain Selection Board convening 1 August 1961.
2. Commander Cole failed of selection to the rank of Captain in fiscal year 1961. This failure came as a great surprise to me because I had always thought of Commander Cole as one of our outstanding young aviators. Commander Cole was under my command in the capacity, first, as the Commanding Officer of a VB Squadron and, later, as Air Officer when I was commanding the USS POINT CRUZ (CV-119) during the years 1954 and 1955.
3. During this time period a new fitness report form was put into effect by the Bureau of Naval Personnel with explicit instructions to mark officers reported upon with a more discerning and realistic appraisal. In review, I believe that in all honesty and sincerity the pendulum went too far to the right and, as a result, my marks in this case were too severe, particularly in view of the fact that these reports covered a period involving operational commands and performance of duty at sea, and hence were a factor of great importance.
4. After reviewing the performance records of naval officers for nearly three years, I am convinced that some marking seniors went overboard to "get with the system," while others continued marking "as usual" during the transition period. I can only assure that to the Board this trend is obvious and given appropriate recognition. I wish to reiterate that I classify my report of fitness in the case of Commander Cole as falling into the minority marking group. I do so in order to avoid any possible reduction in his opportunity for selection.
5. Although Commander Cole has once failed of selection, in my judgment he possesses remarkable motivation, ability and great potential for the increased responsibility. These factors were clearly evident in 1954 and 1955, and they are repeatedly reflected in the reports of his fitness during the past six years. I have had the opportunity to observe Commander Cole on several occasions since he served with me in the POINT CRUZ, and I have been impressed by his continued growth in maturity and judgment, both of which I consider to be singularly outstanding. I consider that this officer is exceptionally well qualified and possesses, to a great degree, the necessary requisites to eminently carry out the increased responsibilities appropriate to the rank of captain. I strongly recommend him for this promotion.
6. It is requested that this letter be made a part of Commander Cole's record.

F. J. BRUSH

0001

6 July 1961

Dear Howie:

I am attaching a copy of a letter which I have had inserted in your record concerning your performance on the POINT CRUZ. I hope that the selection board gives this letter the desired weight and attention since it reflects my considered opinion of your value to this wonderful Navy of ours.

Warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

F. J. BRUSH

Commander Howard Cole, USN  
Executive Officer, VX-1  
Naval Air Station  
Key West, Florida

0882



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO  
Pers-B111/alw  
123440/1310  
1 SEP 1961

Dear Commander,

The President has approved the report of a continuation board to recommend commanders for continuation on the active list of the Navy in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 86-155. It is a pleasure for me to inform you that your name was among those recommended for continuation.

Sincerely,

W. R. SMEDBERG, III

(CONSOLATION PRIZE)

CDR Howard Cole, USN  
Air Development Squadron ONE  
U. S. Naval Air Station  
Key West, Florida

0883



5 September 1961

Dear Howie:

I was quite dismayed and extremely disappointed that you were not selected for Captain. I know it was in no way a reflection on your capability, professional ability or performance. There is no doubt the medical record didn't help. Yet, with your having recovered physically, you have much to be thankful for, even if the record looks otherwise.

You know the position of high esteem you hold with me. The failure of selection under difficult circumstances in no way changes this. I always have and always will continue to consider you one of the finest officers with whom I have had the pleasure of associating.

Sincerely,

CHARLES K. BERGIN,  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy.

Commander Howard Cole, USN  
Air Development Squadron ONE  
U.S. Naval Air Station  
Key West, Florida

0884

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E. C. KENNEY  
Chief of Bureau

M. L. GREENBERG  
By direction

0885